

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 13395

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, GR
SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF FORMER POLICE OFFICIAL

REF: ATHENS 13285

1. THE ASSASSINATION OF EVANGHELOS MALLIOS, A FIGURE ASSOCIATED WITH THE 1967-76 JUNTA (REFTEL), NOT UNEXPECTEDLY HAS PROVOKED A WAVE OF HOSTILE REACTION IN RIGHTIST CIRCLES. AN EARLY PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF THIS SENTIMENT OCCURRED YESTERDAY ON THE OCCASION OF MALLIOS' FUNERAL WHERE SEVERAL THOUSAND GATHERED TO HONOR THE FORMER POLICE OFFICER, WHO HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A MARTYR FOR THE RIGHT.

2. DURING THE CEREMONIES AT THE CEMETERY, THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WERE REPORTEDLY INCITED BY FIERY ORATORY FROM FORMER RANKING JUNTA FIGURES GEORGE GEORGALAS (UNDER SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER), JOHN AGATHAGELOU (MINISTER OF INTERIOR) AND VASSILIOUS LAMBROU (CHIEF OF THE SECURITY POLICE). AFTERWARD, A SMALL GROUP, ESTIMATED AT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED, STAGED A MARCH FROM THE CEMETERY THROUGH CONSTITUTION SQUARE AND CONTINUED TOWARDS OMONIA SQUARE. AMONG THEIR
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CHANTS, THE DEMONSTRATORS SHOUTED "PAPADOPOULOS", CALLED FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE JUNTA AND FOR AN END TO THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT AND THE PARLIAMENT. SEVERAL SKIRMISHES, AT THE FUNERAL AND LATER, RESULTED IN INJURIES TO SEVERAL JOURNALISTS FROM LEFTIST NEWSPAPERS WHO WERE IDENTIFIED AND BADLY BEATEN BY THE VENGEFUL MOURNERS.

3. THE GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION POLITICAL FIGURES OF ALL SHADES CONDEMNED THE SLAYING OF MALLIOS AS WELL AS THE DEMONSTRATION YESTERDAY. A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CLAIMED THAT JUNTAIST ELEMENTS HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE FUNERAL TO INDULGE IN ALL SORTS OF UGLY SCENES, WHEREAS THE OPPOSITION ATTACKED THE AUTHORITIES FOR NOT TAKING ADEQUATE PRECAUTIONS. THEY CLAIMED THAT THE POLICE HAD BEEN LAX IN CONTROLLING THE MOURNERS AND ALLOWING THE ATTACKS ON THE JOURNALISTS. THE ASSAULT ON THE JOURNALISTS GAVE ADDED IMPETUS TO THE HARSH DENUNCIATION IN THE ATHENS PRESS OF THE INCIDENTS OCCURRING YESTERDAY. MINISTER OF PUBLIC ORDER STAMATIS HAS ISSUED A WARRANT FOR THE ARREST OF GEORGALAS, AND SEVERAL YOUTHS HAVE BEEN DETAINED. TWO POLICE OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF SECURITY AT THE EVENT HAVE BEEN "PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL" OF THE MINISTRY PENDING AN INVESTIGATION.

4. THE PRESS HAS REPORTED THE STORY HEAVILY. IN DRAWING PARALLELS BETWEEN THIS ASSASSINATION AND THAT OF EMBASSY OFFICER RICHARD WELCH LAST YEAR, THE PRESS HIGHLIGHTED THAT BOTH WERE KILLED BY THREE SHOTS FROM A 45 CALIBER PISTOL, THAT BOTH MURDERS OCCURRED ABOUT THE SAME TIME IN THE EVENING IN THE SAME STYLE, AND THAT THE 17TH OF NOVEMBER ORGANIZATION CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOTH. THE RIGHTIST PRESS HAS ACCUSED LEFTIST EXTREMISTS OF MALLIOS' DEATH. THE LEFTIST PRESS, IN TURN, HAS IMPLIED THAT THE RIGHT IS RESPONSIBLE, CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVING COMMITTED THE ACT IN ORDER TO PROVOKE A REACTION AGAINST THE LEFT.

5. THE PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED IN PART ON THE CONTENT OF THE PAMPHLETS SCATTERED AT THE SCENE OF THE MALLIOS SHOOTING. AMONG OTHER ITEMS, THE LEAFLETS CONDEMN MALLIOS AND OTHERS AS TORTURERS, JUSTIFYING HIS ASSASSINATION BECAUSE THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM HAD PERMITTED HIM AND HIS COLLEAGUES TO GO FREE. THEY ALSO CONDEMN POLICIES OF THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT AND SAY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO POSER BY "KISSINGER AND THE JUNTA" AND NOT BY THE GREEK PEOPLE. THE LEAFLETS ALLEGE THAT DEPUTY ALEXANDER PANAGOULIS HAD BEEN KILLED MAY 1 BY "THE FASCISTS", BECAUSE OF HIS ATTEMPTS TO INVESTIGATE JUNTA ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE POLICY OF "THE FASCIST AVEROFF". FOR HIS PART, DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF PUBLICLY HAS TAKEN UP THE CHALLENGE, SAYING THAT HE AND HIS GENERATION FOR YEARS HAVE FOUGHT BOTH "NAZIISM" AND "RED REBELLION" AND

WERE NEITHER AFRAID NOR INTIMIDATED.

6. COMMENT: IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE INITIAL VIOLENT REACTION OF THE EXTREME RIGHT WILL CONTINUE. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE INTENSE FEELING IS DEEPLY ROOTED, RPOMPTING GENUINE CONCERN AMONG GOG OFFICIALS, SUCH AS DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF WHO MUST CONTAIN A POSSIBLE EMOTIONAL OUTBURST IN SECTORS OF THE MILITARY, AT THE POTENTIAL FOR HEIGHTENING TENSION AND PERHAPS ADDITIONAL VIOLENCE BETWEEN LEFT AND RIGHT EXTREMISTS.

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